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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

12 January 1949

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 120

SUBJECT: Possible sale of transport aircraft by Israel to
Czechoslovakia

1. Czechoslovakia is attempting to obtain aircraft, including four-engine types, from the Israeli Government. If successful, Czechoslovakia will circumvent the US policy to withhold aircraft and aircraft parts from the USSR and its satellite states.

2. Czechoslovakia urgently needs new aircraft to replace the rapidly deteriorating equipment now in use on its international routes. Failure to obtain new equipment will result in the early grounding of all Czechoslovak international air services. (Despite this serious situation, Czechoslovakia is pressing for air rights to permit the development of scheduled services through the Middle East to India. Such a long-haul route could be profitably operated only with four-engine aircraft.)

3. A former high official of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs has revealed that after finding all other markets for four-engine aircraft closed, the Czechoslovak Government recently approached the Israeli Government, with a view to obtaining such transport types. The Israeli Ambassador in Prague consulted his Government and reported that it would explore the possibility.

4. There may be a connection between the Czechoslovak aspirations and Israeli President Weizmann's recent request to the US Government for authority to purchase and export a Douglas Skymaster (C-54) for his forthcoming visit to the US.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

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